[illegible] DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SANITIZED E104650

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

936

February 14, 1981

To: The Secretary

From: PA - William J. Dyess, Acting
S/P - Paul Wolfowitz

Breakfast with Rowland Evans
Monday, February 16, 1981
8:30 a.m.

Your meeting with columnist Rowland Evans is OFF-THE-RECORD. Under the ground-rules, he may not report anything that you and he discuss. "Evans and Novak" is syndicated to hundreds of US newspapers, including the Washington Post. A summary of recent columns is attached.

Attachment:

As stated

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

ROWLAND EVANS COLUMN SUMMARY

Evans and Novak's recent columns had focused on foreign policy and seem to express unqualified approval of the new administration's course.

Policy Toward Israel and F15 Enhancement - (February 13): [illegible] that the Israelis have decided not to pressure the new administration on the Saudi F15 enhancement issue. The reason: "Israel is far more confident of Reagan's loyalty than in any of his recent predecessors", and Begin does not want to "put the arm" on the new administration. Haig is respected in Israel as a tough [illegible] "Haig looks at Israel not as a matter of American constituency-group politics but as an American ally with strategic strength to offer Washington, much like Israel and other U.S. allies in the Arab world." [illegible] is seen as the real first test for working out a new, less confrontational relationship with Israel while actually strengthening the U.S.-Israel alliance."

Defense Spending - (February 9): Evans notes that Reagan's [illegible] is strongly committed to higher defense spending. He maintains that a near real growth in defense spending [illegible] over the next five years. To Reagan, Allen and Haig, "a substantial Reagan increase in the Carter budget is essential to put teeth on the core idea of Reagan's new, activist foreign policy."

South Korea - (February 4): Evans applauds the Reagan administration's [illegible] Chun, and his visit to the U.S. would not have occurred and this would be good.

Human Rights Policy Under Scrutiny - (February 2): [illegible] to the Intel-CIA [illegible], [illegible] Evans [illegible] it [illegible] and human rights as the guiding theme of American policy are gone."